

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water
Public Water System Arsenic Data Interpretation Sheet

This informational sheet supplements the water system data DOH is providing to you regarding arsenic in drinking water supplies. The recently revised federal drinking water standard for arsenic applies only to Group A Community and Non-transient noncommunity (NTNC) public water systems. The revised drinking water standard for arsenic becomes effective January 23, 2006.

The information provided may contain instances of Group B or Group A Transient noncommunity (TNC) systems that have had concentrations of arsenic exceeding the revised Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic, but at the present time, these systems are not subject to the revised federal drinking water standard for arsenic.

The attached list of public water systems corresponds to the arsenic map on the DOH Web site (http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/arsenic.pdf). Please note that this is a list of public water systems that have at one time exceeded the revised arsenic MCL of 10 parts per billion (ppb). This is not a list of systems that are deemed to be out of compliance with the MCL.

Water System Types

Group A public water systems regularly serve 15 or more residential connections, or 25 or more people, for 60 or more days per year. There are currently three types of Group A public water systems:

Group A community water system - a water system providing service to fifteen or more service connections used by year-round residents for one hundred eighty or more days within a calendar year, regardless of the number of people, or regularly serving at least twenty-five residents year-round. Examples of Group A community systems include a municipality, subdivision, mobile home park, apartment complex, college with dormitories, nursing home, or prison.

Group A Non-transient non-community (NTNC) system – a water system that provides service opportunity to twenty-five or more of the same nonresidential people for one hundred eighty or more days within a calendar year. Examples of NTNC systems include schools, day care center, businesses or restaurant with 25 or more employees on-site.

Group A Transient non-community (TNC) system - a water system that serves 25 or more different people each day for sixty or more days within a calendar year; or twenty five or more of the same people each day for sixty or more days, but less than one hundred eighty days within a calendar year; or one thousand or more people for two or more consecutive days within a calendar year. Examples of TNC systems may include motels, gas stations, campgrounds, state or county park, fairgrounds, or churches.

Group B water system – a public water system that does not meet the definition of a Group A water system. Group B systems generally serve 2-14 connections and fewer than 25 people. DOH and local health jurisdictions may share the responsibility for administering drinking water regulations for Group B systems. Although not governed by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) these systems are subject to state law and local ordinances regarding water quality and operations.

Data Limitations

This data contains only active public water system sources and does not include emergency or seasonal sources. This data represents sample results DOH has received and entered into the drinking water data system for the time period from January 1, 1993 – June 30, 2004. The arsenic data will be updated on a quarterly basis.

Database Column Heading Key

pwsid – public water system identification number

systemname – name of public water system

address/address2 – physical location of water system

city – physical location of water system

state – physical location of water system

zipcode – physical location of water system

systemtype – type of public water system

measure - maximum sample analysis result measured

collectdate - date maximum sample result collected

county – county in which sample was taken

region – office of drinking water region

residential population – estimated residential population served by water system

totalconnections – connections to a public water system designed to provide potable water to a single family residence, or other residential, or non-residential population

DOH DATA DISCLAIMER - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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